

**Questions and Answers regarding Applications for JARC and
New Freedom funds for the Virginia Beach Urbanized Area
(May 13, 2008)**

I want to apply for funds under the New Freedom Act for FY 2006.

Just as an FYI, there is no "New Freedom Act." The funds are available under the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59).

What do I have to do about certifications and assurances?

I do not understand what certificates and assurances mean. I clicked on the links and the pages could not be found.

The Certifications and Assurances (C&A) are a standard part of the FTA grant process. They summarize the range of statutory and regulatory provisions with which grantees and sub-recipients must comply.

The links shown on page 6 of Appendix I are correct; simply follow the additional links that they present. C&A for FY 2008 are the most important for current purposes, even though this round deals with FY 2006 funding. Go to:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/apply/grants_financing_7411.html

On the Certification and Assurances page, there is a place for an attorney to sign if you are a grantee for FTA financial assistance or a grantee with an active capital or formula project. If I am applying for New Freedom funds, does that mean I am a grantee for FTA financial assistance? I would assume so. Do I have to have an attorney sign this form?

HRT is the "designated recipient" of FTA funds for the Virginia Beach Urbanized Area. All other applicants for funds under JARC or New Freedom who are approved for funding will become "sub-recipients" of FTA grants. An attorney should sign the C&A so that your organization knows what it is committing to. If the form cannot be signed before application materials are submitted, please just explain why.

Which of the three listed certifications and assurances (I-6) should we use for the first round applications? FY06 since this application is for 06 money, or 08 since that is where we are now?

FTA has recently confirmed that the C&A for FY2008 should be used for this round.

When does the public notice have to be in the paper? Is it too late?

Do I put the notice in the paper or do you do that?

Do I have to put a public notice in the paper?

No, it is not too late. If you can place a notice before your application is submitted, that is preferred; include a copy with your application. If it will be published at a subsequent date, include a copy and other anticipated info, such as the publication date. Of course, any comments received must be made available for HRT and the Project Selection

Committee.

When it says the funds must be committed by September 2008, does that mean the funds must be spent by then in order to be reimbursed?

No. "Obligation" of funds is a federal action that will ensure availability of funds for expenditure.

Is there a specific date that proposed projects are required to start by?

No. However, please note that the Implementation Plan is part of the evaluation criteria for making funding decisions.

Is there a limit on the amount of funding for which an organization can apply?

Is there a maximum amount that the new freedom grant will fund for labor/salary?

This is up to the applicant to determine, but will be part of the overall evaluation criteria. For this first round, the total limits on available federal funds, as stated, are \$555,706.00 for JARC and \$320,054.00 for New Freedom. Please remember that the current authorization for JARC and New Freedom funding expires on September 30, 2009. Hiring new employee(s) may not be the most prudent use of the funds. We expect multiple applicants in each category, and sharing is generally considered an appropriate trait for coordination.

I noticed in this round that proposed projects under FTA Section 5310 are not being accepted at this time. Will there be opportunity at a later period to apply for funds for this type of project? If so, when is the anticipated time frame?

As has been discussed at all of the Stakeholder meetings, FTA Section 5310 funds are administered on a Statewide basis by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). More information about their programs can be found from their website at:

<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/ptfunding.aspx>

Projects to be funded under FTA Section 5310 must be "derived from" a locally-developed Coordinated Plan, and this will be part of DRPT's application/evaluation process.

The budget for Other Capital (I-18) says that descriptions of available vehicles and unit costs are provided in Appendix A. I can't find that.

The reference on page I-18 to Appendix A is an error and should be ignored. We apologize for any confusion. This application process is not providing descriptions of available vehicles or unit costs, as is sometimes done through DRPT programs.

Would the following be considered for funding?

Purchase of GPS units to improve route management in the eight jurisdictions served by Senior Services and to coordinate existing routes with other programs. The units could be shared with other organizations.

Based on the description provided, it appears that the proposed project would be compatible with the examples provided in Appendix G as items #k, l, m, or r(7) for JARC funding, item b)4)(g) for New Freedom funding, or item (p)(7) for 5310 funding.